



APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE DEMOCRATS

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One Dozen Ways Labor, Health, and Education Programs Are Shortchanged in 2007

Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations Bill

Full Committee Markup (reflects Manager's Amendment)

1. **The share of 4-year public college costs paid by the Pell Grant will drop to a new low.** Due to rising costs, a \$300 increase in the maximum Pell award is needed just to maintain last year's purchasing power, compared to the \$100 increase in the bill. A \$1,650 increase would be needed to restore Pell's purchasing power to the level that existed at the start of the Bush Administration. Pell Grants covered 42% of college costs at the start of the Bush Administration and 72 % in 1976, under this bill they will cover 30%.
2. **The federal share of the cost of educating students with disabilities continues to decline.** Congress promised to pay 40% of the costs of educating 6.9 million students with disabilities. Instead, the federal share of special education costs will continue to decrease from 18.6% in 2005 to 17.8% in 2006 to 17% in 2007. An additional \$1 billion would be needed to restore the federal percentage share to its 2005 level.
3. **The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is cut by one third, from \$3.2 billion to \$2.1 billion.** In the face of record high energy prices, fewer Americans will receive needed assistance with their energy bills.
4. **Community Services Block Grants (CSBG) are cut from \$630 million to \$449 million.** The result is less support for local agencies operating in virtually all U.S. counties who use these grants to provide services like job training, childcare, programs for youth and seniors and emergency food assistance to poor Americans with nowhere else to turn.
5. **Funding for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis in the Department of Health and Human Services is eliminated (from \$99 million).** The total U.S. contribution would drop from \$545 million to \$445 million.
6. **Teacher Quality State Grants are cut \$300 million.** These grants help schools to recruit, hire, and train teachers to meet teacher quality mandates in No Child Left Behind. 73,500 fewer teachers will receive professional development as a result of these cuts. In real terms, these teacher grants will have been cut by \$500 million since 2005.
7. **Education Technology Grants are eliminated (\$272 million in 2006 and \$496 million in 2005).** These grants help schools, universities and technical colleges share classes statewide, provide online professional development for teachers, and assist schools in keeping up with ever-changing technologies.

8. **Safe and Drug Free Schools State Grants are cut nearly \$40 million.** Many communities use these grants to address the growing methamphetamine crisis. SDF funds are being used to help law enforcement, education and social service agencies implement meth prevention programs and youth mentoring to reduce meth abuse. In real terms, SDF funds will have been cut by \$150 million or 33% since 2005.
9. **Workforce Investment Act Programs face \$431 million in cuts, including \$325 million already disbursed to local communities.** The result will be less training and job search assistance for the 7 million Americans who are unemployed. In real terms, training and employment services will have been cut \$1.3 billion since 2005. The U.S. Employment Service, which matches jobless people to employers seeking workers, will be able to serve 5.5 million fewer people than it did in 2001.
10. **The International Labor Affairs Bureau is cut \$60.2 million or 83 percent to \$12.4 million.** This program promotes core labor standards, removes children from hazardous labor, and strengthens social safety nets for disadvantaged workers around the world.
11. **No advance funding is provided for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for 2009, ending a 30-year practice.** To make matters worse, no funds are provided for necessary satellite upgrades and digital conversion mandated by the FCC and federal support for children's programs like Sesame Street is eliminated.
12. **Total funding for the National Institutes of Health is frozen, and most individual institutes are cut.** Adjusted for inflation, the bill produces a 3.7% loss in purchasing power compared to last year and a cumulative 11% loss since 2003. As a result, NIH would be able to fund 1,570 fewer research grants than it did three years ago.